

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 1 Section, 12 Pages, Volume 77 No. 10 Published Weekly Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

illinois-valley-news.com

Two vehicle collision sends two to hospital



(Photo courtesy of Elijah Graves for *The Illinois Valley News*)

Norman Smith looks at the engine that came from his son's 1993 Honda Civic during a collision on Rockydale Rd. May 9. Drivers from both vehicles were transported to Three Rivers Medical Center in Grants Pass with non life-threatening injuries.

When is the big one coming?

By

Annette McGee Rasch

IVN Senior Contributing Writer

The devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in 2011 ignited higher levels of awareness and concern from both the public and local governments in Oregon, leaving many wondering, are we overdue for "the Big One" on this side of the ocean?

"The possibility of a 9.0 earthquake occurring off the coast of Oregon or Washington is very real," said Paul Caruso, a geophysicist at the USGS National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado. "But we're definitely not overdue like a library book. There's a small plate off the coast of Oregon and Wash-

ington that's being pushed under North America. That fault hasn't produced a big earthquake for a long time. That's why people say it's overdue."

Large off-shore earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest result from continental rock being dragged down by a heavy, sinking seafloor. These rock slabs (also called plates) get stuck against each other. Many geologists say the main fault may be "locked," and as geophysical forces thrust these plates against each other, pressure builds, and when the lighter continental rock finally springs free, big earthquakes result.

The fault, or the location where this interaction occurs, is the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which extends from Northern California to

British Columbia, roughly parallel to the shoreline. In southern Oregon, the subduction zone is about sixty miles offshore.

The last major 9.0 earthquake to impact the Pacific Northwest coast was on Jan. 26, 1700. While some research indicates that roughly every 550 years a large mega-thrust earthquake occurs, Caruso says "We're not exactly sure what the reoccurrence interval for the big ones are."

"However there's been no significant increase in earthquake activity in the past few years in the Pacific Northwest," Caruso said. "We've had quakes, and some of these small quakes may be serving to relieve pressure on the potentially-locked main fault, but we can't be sure of this either."

Geologists also note that some of the small offshore earthquakes regularly reported in the Pacific Northwest could indicate that the main fault is being loaded "like clicks on a ratchet wrench."

What has increased in recent years is the capability of seismic monitoring equipment, thus more smaller earthquakes are recorded and reported.

"There's also an increase in communications," Caruso said. "There's been more media coverage so it may seem like there's been more earthquakes."

See Quake on A-10

3 Rivers Chorale attempts to light up the dark ages

By

Judy Hoyle

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An internationally renowned musician and a world premiere piece of music will be featured when 3 Rivers Chorale presents their spring concert May 18. "Light from the Dark Ages" will explore a wide variety of medieval music, interspersed with a sampling of new compositions written in the medieval style and in-

corporating ancient instruments common to the time.

According to director Kate Campbell, this form of choral music usually consists of single melodies with little or no accompaniment. "It's also rhythmically complex and full of surprises," she explains.

The concert will feature Seattle musician and composer Ruthie Dornfeld, who is fluent in a wide range of traditional styles including Irish, American, Scandinavian and Eastern

European. She has performed and taught for over forty years throughout the U.S. and abroad, in settings ranging from the Manaus Operahouse in the Brazilian Amazon to the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland.

Dornfeld began her musical journey studying classical violin in Corvallis, Ore., then discovered fiddle music at age 18. During a 15-year sojourn in New England, she studied jazz at Berklee College of Music, became a renowned dance fiddler,

played in the stringband The Poodles, and founded The American Cafe Orchestra with Danish guitarist Morten Alfred Høirup, with whom she toured for a decade and recorded several groundbreaking albums.

Now residing in Seattle, Dornfeld continues to play with ACO, as well as with guitarist John Miller, in the avant ensemble Concert Imaginaire (acoustic and electric violin), and in the tango band Tangoheart. She also has taken up the medieval

fiddle (vielle), which she plays in the duo Cinnamon Bird.

Her compositions for vielle are featured in her latest recording, "Lay of the Waves," for which she received grants from Artist Trust and the Jack Straw Foundation.

In Sunday's concert, Dornfeld's original compositions are juxtaposed with the most ancient of Western music's repertoire.

See Dark on A-10

You can't stop the music



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Rosie Whitman and other local musicians donated their time May 9, at McGrew's to raise funds to re-open the outdoor stage before summer.

Getting ready for earthquakes

By

Annette McGee Rasch

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State emergency preparedness officials are pleased that increased attention has been focused on the reality that Oregon is at risk for large damaging earthquakes associated with the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and that impacts could be felt many miles inland.

Experts say the inevitable offshore mega-thrust earthquake will generate a destructive tsunami and strong ground shaking that could last up to ten minutes, impacting communities not only on the coast, but further inland.

A sixty-second early warning system was recently utilized in Mexico to warn people before the major "P" (primary) waves of motion hit, and now, funding is being sought to facilitate the development of such a system in the Pacific Northwest, according to Paul Caruso, a geophysicist at the USGS National Earthquake Information Center.

"If you live in California, Oregon or Washington, you should always be prepared for earthquakes," Caruso said. "It's a reality that we can have large earthquakes here."

In the event of a big quake, the Oregon Seismic Safe-

ty Policy Advisory Commission advises that people use the "Drop, Cover and Hold" method. In other words, dive under a desk or a table and hang on. Structural analysis and behavioral studies confirm that this method reduces the likelihood of serious injury, since most earthquake injuries are a result of falling nonstructural elements (lighting fixtures, ceiling tiles, windows) and contents (appliances, shelves, office equipment).

Post-earthquake investigations in California indicate that most injuries occurred when people attempted to exit buildings or move to a different location in the building. During a big quake, don't try to leave a building, but when things settle down, seek an open field, or somewhere clear of trees and buildings, as aftershocks can bring more damages.

Ultimately, Oregon residents should evaluate the earthquake readiness of their homes and work places and take appropriate steps to reduce their risk from structural and nonstructural building components.

"We've seen big earthquakes in Chile recently, but the casualties are lower because of the preparedness there. Their design codes and preparedness has saved a lot of lives," Caruso added.

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